

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

It is unconscionable that propaganda be aired as news at any time, but for a media company to do so unanswered, immediately before an election borders on an attempt to subvert democracy. This cannot be construed as acting in the public interest. Media organizations using public resources (the electromagnetic spectrum) should not be allowed to serve as the propaganda arm of a political party.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.